Girl Child Focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been sanctioned through the ICDS infrastructure in 507 blocks of the country, including Vadamadurai block in Madurai district. Government has initiated a nation-wide survey including Tamil Nadu, of the problem of female infanticide with a view to identify the vulnerable areas, pin-point underlying factors and devise suitable interventions to eliminate this invidious practice. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a specific scheme called the Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha Scheme for the girl child as a specific measure to prevent female infanticide. The scheme extends financial assistance to girl children of poor families and simultaneously attempts to convince people to adopt small family norm. The State Government of Tamil has organised cradles in vulnerable areas to receive abandoned babies who can then be nurtured and cared for by reputed voluntary organisations.

Affiliation of private professional institutions to Central Universities

6094. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has decided to get private non-aided professional institutions conducting professional courses in the country affiliated to one of the Central Universities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given its approval to the proposal of UGC, if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether similar action will be taken at the State level also; and

(e) what sort of control Government will have on such institution ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the information furnished by UGC, no such decision has been taken by the Commission in this regard.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Vocationalisation of Schools in Punjab

6095. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is giving greater emphasis on vocationalisation of schools and higher education in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at plus 2 level, has been started in all States|UTs except UT of Lakshadweep.

University Grants Commission is introducing a Scheme to start some vocational courses at first Degree level in certain Universities and colleges from the academic year 1994-95.

Technical posts in Bureau for promotion of Urdu

6096. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many Technical Posts are lying vacant in the Bureau for Promotion of Urdu;